Annual General Meeting of IAA affiliated members

Prevention is better than Cure!

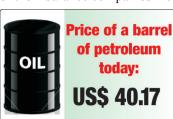
ORANJESTAD - Twice yearly the 18 insurance companies associated to the "Insurance Association of Aruba" meet to discuss common topics on insurance and issues affecting general interests of the insuring community in Aruba.

The organization exists for 23 years and counts on all insurance companies of our island as associated members. Affiliated companies of the "Insurance Association of Aruba" are the following insurance companies: Amedex, American Home Assurance Co., American Life Insurance Co., American Bankers Life Association Co. of Florida, Atradius Credit Insurance, British American Insurance Co. Ltd., Elvira Verzekeringen N.V., Ennia Caribe N.V. / Leven N.V., Fatum General Insurance N.V. / Fatum Life N.V., Guardian Life of the Caribbean N.V., New Treston N. V. National General Insurance Co. (NAGICO), Netherlands Antilles & Aruba Assurance Co. (Citizens), Royal & Sun Alliance Insurance (Antilles) N.V., Sagicor - Capital Life

In this event, the representatives of the insurance companies met

Insurance, The New India

Assurance Co. Ltd. and The United Insurance Co. Ltd.





for lunch at Windows of Aruba. They have re-elected the board of directors of the Association for 2009 as under:

1. Prakash Gupta of American Home Assurance— President of the Association

- 2. Diego Frankel of FatumVice-President
 - 3. Roger Schimmel of Ennia Treasurer
 - 4. Detlef Hooyboer of NAGICO – Secretary5. Rajiv Bhatia of New
 - India Assurance –
 Assistant Secretary
 - 6. Barbara Marin of RSA– Assistant Treasurer

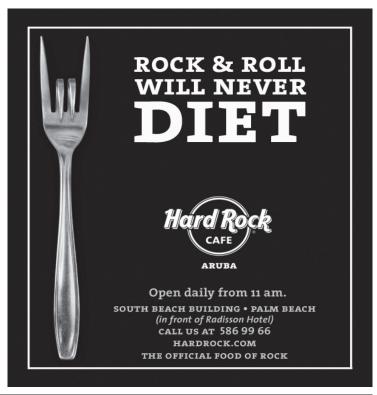
Association members also recognized its members who helped well with various committees in the last year. The members honored by the IAA are Jacques v/d Scheer Education committee, Gwendy Henriquez Cathy Bronswinkel for the Marketing committee and Jos Solognier for the Automobile Committee. IAA also formed various committees for 2009 as under: Automobile committee, Life and medical committee, Property committee, Education committee, Marketing committee





One of the main focus of the Association this year is to launch a common road service very early in the year that will not only attend to the vehicles in case of accidents but also arrange to provide roadside assistance to the insureds in case of flat tires, locked keys, low battery etc.

Continued on Next Page



10-DAY SALES EVENT February 1 - 10

Take advantage of this opportunity to save thousands on the purchase of your new home!

Visit <u>www.coldwellbanker.aw</u> or visit our office at **J.E. Irausquin Blvd. 12** for complete information on a selection of homes at specially reduced prices.



Aruba_TODAY

Costa Linda Friends Revisit



MOOMBA - From the moment you step aboard his charming Old World Teak Schooners, you will discover the colorful personalities of Captain Harald, the ship's hands on owner and his crew who literally turn flips to please their guests.

The typical hospitality offered



by this high -spirited crew is what keeps sisters Sally and Susan returning year after year and recommending the fun aboard the Jolly Pirates snorkeling and sunset sails to their family Adam, Janet, Tim and Mary and also many friends who vacation for four weeks at the Costa Linda Resort.

Genuine Old World Sailing combined with a top-notch, award - winning crew is the winning combination that has earned the Jolly Pirates the top spot of most popular sailing trip in Aruba.

If you want to join the Costa Linda gang for a sensational day relaxing aboard the Jolly Pirates you can purchase tickets for their Snorkeling and Sunset Cruises at their Skull and Bones Souvenir Shop open daily 8am − 8pm at the MooMba Beach, where their ships depart from. Tickets can also be arranged by calling 586 − 8107. □



IAA

Continued from Front Page

A common road service will have many advantages like avoiding duplication of work in case of multiple vehicles involved in an accident. It will also provide a high caliber tested web-based database of various accidents that can help analyze the causes of accidents, hot spots, types of vehicles involved, age group etc.

With such reports available, drivers and public can be more aware of hazards on road and preventive actions can be taken by all parties. Thus a common database can contribute to safe traffic in Aruba. This service will be entirely free to the public and monitored by representatives of Road Service, IAA and Korps Politie as well. IAA has already signed an agreement with a service provider and a protocol with the police authorities is being worked out as we go to the press.

IAA will also continue its focus on educational aspects for its employees to continuously upgrade their skills in the Industry. Besides, it will continue to organize seminars on topics of interests like it did on the topic of Hurricane Safety, Fire Prevention and Defensive Driving Techniques so far. Attached pictures show the proceedings at the Meeting.

IAA firmly believes in: Prevention is better than Cure!



Celebrating 25 years as Aruba's place to play!

Super Bingo Saturday!

Super 4-Card Bingo starting at Ipm!

\$6 for 4-Card Bingo! • 8 games to play! • \$1,000 in CASH PRIZES!

Additional \$500 CASH PRIZE in our Early Bird Drawing when you purchase your card prior to 12 noon!

TOMORROW Don't miss 20/20 Sunday! \$20 CASH giveaways every 20 minutes.

Table games open at 6pm with \$3.00 Blackjack daily!

Open daily 10am to 4am • J.E. Irausquin Blvd #47 • 583.5000 • www.alhambracasino.com

Must be an Alhambra Advantage member. All programs and promotions are subject to change or cancellation without notice.





Open daily 6pm to 2am with Happy Hour from 6 to 8pm







Aruba_TODAY

The Coconut Trading Co., Stocked with Gorgeous Valentine's Gifts



PALM BEACH -- The Coconut Trading Company displays Valentine's gifts personally selected by owner Jodi Tobman-Hagedoorn, a Boston native and longtime Aruba resident.

Jodi takes great pleasure at discovering extraordinary treasurers handcrafted by skilled artisans, which she colorfully displays in a beach house ambiance, in her store in the lobby of the Marriott Ocean Club.

Every corner of the store attracts the eye with a dazzling assortment of gifts and home accents that command attention; strikingly designed photo frames, candle holders and snuffers, serving pieces to dress every picnic table and dazzling glass accents: a virtual potpourri of tropical and distinctive gifts to grace any home, and warm the heart of every Valentine.

The store also stocks a fine selection of creative sterling jewelry, handcrafted with precious gems, sea glass, turquoise and fresh water pearls, which can be found artfully arranged, beckoning to be worn. And while you shop for beloved friends, don't forget yourself and pick something special for you.

Popular with repeat visitors and locals alike, The Coconut Trading Co. has become



the premier stop for the perfect gift, with great prices and convenient nighttime shopping hours. Shipping is



available, with a selection of larger pieces offered with a drop ship program at a nominal fee.

The Coconut Trading Co., located in the Marriott Ocean Club lobby. Open daily from 9 am to 9 pm, Sundays until 7 p.m. Email: orders@salama nderholdings.com



Super Sunday Powerball Bingo

Sunday February 8th, 2009



Open Bar & Free Snacks

PROGRESSIVE AFL.23.752,-

Afl.15,- for 4 tickets of 8 games

Afl. 2,- for 4 progressive tickets

Play Bingo on your Birthday and receive a

FREE Bingo Card

Doorprizes:

- 4x Afl. 25,- cash 5x Free Powerball Ticktes
- 5x \$5 Free Play on "The Card"

Don't forget our Seaport Powerball @ Seaport Casino from Monday to Saturday at 1 pm









\$ 34.95 per person s.c and 3% Gov. tax

New England clam chowder or tossed salad with choice of dressing Steamed Maine lobster with drawn butter and lemon or broiled Maine lobster with cornbread and crab meat stuffing.



Open Daily Located downtown in the Renaissance Marketplace Toll free: 1-866-978-5043

Tel: (207) 583-5858 or 582-0184 www.waterfrontaruba.com

E-mail: water@setarnet.aw



Smith Boulevard • Opposited Container Harbou pen Saturday & Sunday: 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.

Aruban Arts • Crafts • Souvenirs • T-Shirts • Watches Sunglasses • Silver • Delfts Blue • More than 100.000 articles! **BIG DADDY'S STAY FOR A FEW HOURS!**

Delicious Tell and bring your friends! - Taxis, Bus Tours - Easy & Constant Public Bus Transportation! BBQ!

Be smart! Do what locals do! - Best shopping - Lowest prices ever!



runch in the Name of Love at Aquarius restaurant



ORANJESTAD – Aquarius Restaurant will be offering brunch in the name of love on Saturday February 14th and Sunday February 15th, from noon till 3:30 p.m., at \$30 per person, plus service charge, in celebration of Valentine's Day.

The sumptuous Champagne brunch will delight good-food lovers, and Carnival fans, eager to watch the Lighting Parade, on Saturday night. All ladies will be welcomed with a red rose upon arrival. The fantastic menu, a veritable feast in the tradition of a





classic restaurant includes everyone's favorite foods. Start off with a rich Salad Bar with Red Beet Salad, Potato Salad, Egg Salad, Coleslaw & Pasta Salad, Seafood Ceviche, Jumbo Shrimp with Champagne Sauce, Salmon Gravlax, Smoked Herring, Peppered Mackerel, Assorted Sushi and Makisushi Rolls, Homemade Seasonal Pickled Vegetables, Liver Pate

Baby Shrimp Cocktail, and Tomato & Baby Mozzarella Salad.

The Steaming Kettle will alternate a tasty soup each day and the hot entrees will be selected by the Chef in honor of the occasion, with international and local creations of Beef, Chicken, Pork and Lamb Fish. specialties.

The Carving Block will prominently display Roast Prime Beef au jus with horseradish and mustard sauce, plus the Chef's selection of roasted Ham, Turkey or Pork Loin and the Action Station, will feature Omelets and Pastas tossed to order by a chef following patrons' own cooking instructions.

Also on the buffet, freshbaked Breads including Croissants, Muffins, Banana Bread, assorted Danish Rolls & French bread accompanied by an international cheese board.

Dessert, the affair's finishing touch will deliver Pistachio Crème Brulée, Quesillo, Tiramisu Chocolate Cake, Napoleon Rum Cake, Chocolate Mousse, Tropical Fruits & Banana Chiboust, Coffee or Tea and a welcome Mimosa. Children six to twelve years, are welcome at half price.

Lover's Valentine's Brunch will be served in the stylish







comfort Aquarius lobby restaurant on the level of the Renaissance Aruba Resort. Marina Tower. Valentine's brunch at Aquarius is an outstanding choice to show your love and special sentiments. Call +297 583-6000, ext.: 6156 for reservations.







La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club bids farewell and good luck to Accounting Manager Tony Ponson





EAGLE BEACH – Popular Accounting Manager Tony Ponson, just recently announced his desire to move on down the block to Morgan's Island. It was very difficult for him to make the decision, he admits, since he went through so many happy and fulfilling



moments at La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club. The examples for that, he says, are too many to mention, and the camaraderie that he found on the job, and the bonds he enjoyed with colleagues are priceless and hard to replace.

Tony started at the resort is August 1991 as the F&B Cost Controller and very soon stepped up the ladder through several posts in the Accounting department, to his last held position as Accounting Manager.

Tony has always taken his job very seriously and was always looking for ways to improve and learn.

A caring gentleman, a





willing helper and trusted advisor, Tony was part of the La Cabana family, and



for his many contributions he received a nice gift from Management and staff and in return he surprised some of them with a nice token of appreciation. Pictured here Tony's farewell get together. Good Luck at the wet and wild Morgan's Aqua Island, we are sure you will have buckets of fun on the job.



Arubu TODAY

STEP-IT-UP "Zumba Beach" at Moomba Beach a success



ORANJESTAD -Step-It-Up Zumba Fitness and more started their month of events to celebrate their first lustrum. The first event was a very successful one, which was Zumba Beach. On February 29th, 2008 a dream came

through when Step-It-Up started offering the Aruban community Zumba lessons at Club Estrella in Santa Cruz under tutelage of Dwayne Wever. With a very small group, they started 4 times a week and it's continuously



expanding to more and more programs.

Zumba Fitness is an exercise program that does not require you to exercise. It utilizes the principles of fitness interval training and resistance training to maximize caloric output, fat burning, and total body toning. It's a way of mixing body sculpting movements



easy-to-follow dance steps. Inspired by Latin dance and music, Zumba uses a variety of styles in its routines, including cumbia, merengue, salsa, reggaeton, hip hop, pop, mambo, rumba, flamenco, and calypso and Salsaton. Music selections include both fast and slow rhythms to help tone and sculpt the body. It's



like going to a party and never needing a partner. Zumba is loved on this Island and Step-It-Up offers you lessons with certified instructors.

During this celebration month we are going to be everywhere with you, with tons of activities for our youth and elderly. Every Saturday our instructors are at Renaissance Market Place from 9:00 to 10:00 of the morning, and this is a completely free session. From Monday to Thursday we are at Club Estrella in Santa Cruz, where we offer Hip Hop Abs & Zumba Fitness and soon we'll expand to include courses for our youth and

More than a 100 people attended the Zumba Beach event, were Cool FM 98.9 was presentwiththeirrevolutionary Live Video Streaming through www.coolaruba.com for all of Aruba and the world to view this event. Thanks go to Cool FM 98.9, Jason Margarita, Moomba Beach and all other individuals that helped us accomplish this magnificent feat. We would also like to thank our instructors, Dwayne Wever, Naziha Adames, Ella Orman y Marisol Sanchez for their continuous support and collaboration.







Don't miss your chance for



Where Everyone Is Special!

Sunday 8:00 - 4:00 Self Service / Drop Off AVAILABLE

Tel: 586-7556



At the Crystal Theater

"Havana Dance," is the hottest Cuban show on the island



ORANJESTAD - The elegant Crystal Theater sparkles with all the excitement of Las Vegas as the magnificent "Havana"

Dance" explodes on stage with a thrilling mix of Latin & Cuban music, colorful costumes and high energy, contemporary Cuban



dance

"Havana Dance" is the biggest stage production in the Caribbean, featuring dancers Cuban entertainers directly from Havana. The show delivers a purely Cuban spectacle, with a cast of 12 female ballerinas, 4 male dancers, 2 singers and 3 acrobats, performing a fresh program accompanied by live Cuban music performed on stage by a genuine Cuban orchestra, consisting of 5 professional Cuban musicians. live dance AND live music combination as seen in our pictures, is 'first of its kind' on the island.

While the greater part of the "Havana Dance" review enjoys predominantly Cuban flavor, the show is graced with a truly unique Caribbean choreography, and many tropical touches. "Havana Dance" unfolds on a two-tiered stage, with entrances and exits to and off the arena at different heights, which presents a



new visual concept. The custom-designed costumes are sensual, daring, colorful, and luxurious and set "Havana Dance" apart from any other cabaret.

Producer Steve Hudson who enjoyed an unprecedentedly-successful seven-year run with his previous "Let's Go Latin" review, conceived and created an exciting and much-evolved new must-see spectacle.

Tickets for "Havana Dance" are US\$ 49.- Children under 12 pay US\$25.-

Tickets are available at the theater box office, Renaissance Aruba Resort, and can also be purchased at the concierge's desk at the Renaissance Aruba Resort. Other ticket vendors include the De Palm Tours and Pelican Adventure Activity Centers at the resorts. A special dinner & show package is also available in conjunction with the L.G. Smith's Steak & Chop House for US\$89.- per person.

For additional information and reservations call the Crystal Theatre at Tel.: 583 6000, ext. 6115, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. After 5 p.m., call tel.: 583 6000 ext. 6357. Don't miss an opportunity to be greatly entertained by the sizzle of "Havana Dance."

Driftwood Authentic Aruban Seafood Res<mark>taurant</mark> offers diners the ultimate dining experience in freshly line caught fish. $\sim \sim \sim$

ORANJESTAD - Why should seafood enthusiast and other diners alike go to Driftwood Restaurant? Well let's start by mentioning that their fish is caught daily by the owner himself and prepared by a local chef. "Just like mama makes it." The food is fresh, the staff is friendly, and the place is definitely buzzing. If you want to catch your own fresh fish and can't stay for a sit-down dinner. enjoy their Charter Fishing trip and have them prepare it for you. Trust me; it doesn't get any fresher than this: From pier to plate as their motto says.



Fried fish would be the common choice, but you can get your entrée broiled, grilled or baked. However you can indulge in the more guilty options for lobster, Alaskan king crab legs, grouper, shrimp, Black Angus tenderloin and so forth. Ease your

conscience and add a salad or go all out and try their delicious crab cakes, fish soup, garlic escargots, lobster crepe and coconut shrimps before your hearty entrée.



While seafood stars at Driftwood, fish-phobic diners will not go hungry. They have a staggeringly vast menu, which doesn't miss much of anything, from authentic Aruban seafood, lobster, Alaskan king crab legs to chicken, lamb or steaks.





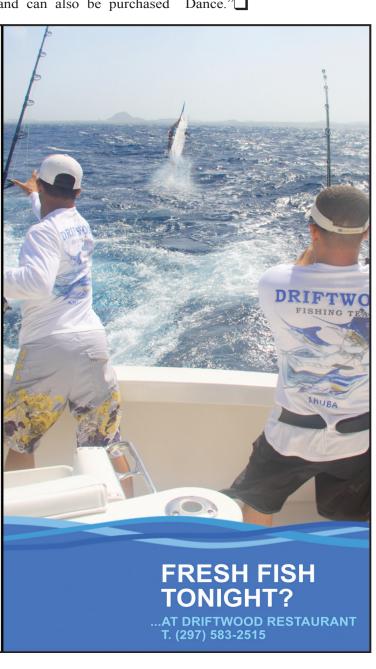
Driftwood restaurant has a long tradition of serving the best seafood and steaks for over 20 years!

Don't forget to make this a must dine at restaurant while on vacation, you are sure to indulge in some great tasty seafood.



Restaurant information and reservation: open daily (closed on Tuesdays) from 5pm-10:30pm. Te1.583-2515. Located at Klipstraat 12 in the heart of downtown Oranjestad, within driving distance from the resorts.





Every dish a surprise to the senses

Moby Dick's serves the freshest dishes from the Seas to your Plate

PASEO HERENCIA – inside is studded with Moby Dick's has one artwork, amazing glass mission; to take you to carvings, and both the depths of the blue floors are dominated ocean to taste some by gigantic fountains, of the most exquisite with water running dishes to come from from ceiling to floor the deep. What a truly along multicoloured lit beautiful restaurant this fibre optic cables. The is, and what a unique stairway is lined by

interior to match. The an impressive painting



which runs along the complete menu for you to choose from. wall. The menu promises You will find what you want, to be a true seafood lovers whatever your craving may dream. Lobsters, fresh fish fillets, shrimps, Moby Dick's amongst the friendliest on the has everything on the menu. island, ever so attentive to your There is of course a land every whim. So long story lubbers section for those who short, for unbelievable seafood are so disposed. The wine list in unique surroundings, go to is impressive to say the least, Moby Dick's. You'll have a and the cocktails are definitely whale of a time!

Moby Dick's is open for lunch as well. The chef has made a well rounded, extensive

be at that time. The staff is

For More info & Reservations Call: 586 8333



Buster's Garage NYC now open at the South Beach Centre



PALM BEACH - A landmark NY-style sports bar recently checked into the Palm Beach Centre, turning the TVs and the beer taps. The sports bar was conceived by an island repeat visitor of 18-years, Ross Provenzano, who is also a diving fanatic. Provenzano frequent visits to the island fired up a desire to own a proper American-style sports bar in

When South Beach Centre commenced construction, Provenzano signed on the dotted line and Busters Garage NYC was born.









LOCATED AT THE HOLIDAY INN

Monday \$25 buy-in \$2,500 Guaranteed Tuesday \$25 Buy-in \$2,500 Guaranteed Wednesday \$10 Buy-in \$1,000 Guaranteed Thursday \$25 Buy-in \$2,500 Guaranteed Friday \$50 Buy-in \$4,000 Guaranteed Saturday \$10 Buy-in \$1,500 Guaranteed Sunday Free Roll No Entry Fee \$2,000 (at 5pm) (Tournaments are subject to charge as per Management criteria)

SPORTS BOOK

No charge or tax on winnings

Live simulcast of all major tracks Highest limits in Aruba Sports Book opens at 12:30 pm

POKER ROOM

EARLY BIRD SPECIAL

TEXAS HOLD-EM \$4-\$8 LIMIT

BUY-IN FOR \$30 RECEIVE \$60 IN MUST PLAY TWO (2) HOURS

CONVENIENT PARKING

Located at the Holiday Inn Where There's Always A Game



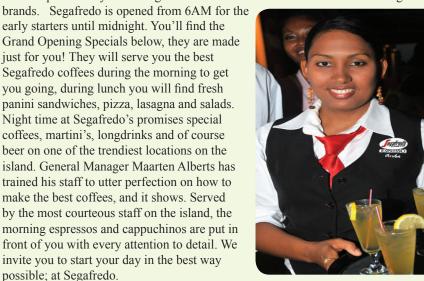


Get ready for a close and personal encounter with huge, prehistoric birds! The Aruba Ostrich Farm invites you to meet these unique birds and learn more about their behavior, natural instinct and maybe even stand on its enormous eggs. Our Savanna Lodge Restaurant serves ostrich delicacies, chicken dishes, salads, vegetarian dishes and offers a breathtaking view along Aruba's north shore. Don't forget to pay a visit to our Afri-





20% discount on the tour. Not valid with other promotions.



Grand

Opening Specials

6pm - 8pm

The trendiest coffees on Aruba

Segafredo at South Beach Centre PALM BEACH - Recently Segafredo very quietly opened its doors in the new South Beach Mall, right across from the High Rise Hotels. They have been a raving succes from day one, not a surprise to anyone as Segafredo is one of the world's trendiest and recognized coffee



Experience authentic regional ambiance every Friday evening at Pam-Pam Café



Pam-Pam Café, located in the charming Perle D'Or Resort in Bubali, is the place to be on Friday evenings for a great taste of regional music, dance, food and hospitality, as proprietors and hosts Nico and Monique van de Borne welcome guests for their weekly "Latin Night."

Pam-Pam Café is situated in a delightful tropical setting that is the perfect backdrop for a show by 2002 World Salsa Champions Janice and Oslin Boekhoudt, who run their Pachanga Dance School

out Perle D'Or. They and their dance troupe put on a show of the exotic Zouk, originating from the French islands of Guadeloupe and Martinique, and inspiration for the Brazilian Lambada. If their sensual movements inspire any audience members, they can sign up at Pam-Pam for private dance lessons from the Pachanga crew, which also teach Salsa and Merengue.

In addition to the island music and dance, reasonably prices snacks (10.50 in Arubian florins (\$6) for an Assorted Snack Platter or Buffalo Wings among





other choices) and cocktails are available throughout the evening. From 11 PM until closing time, Pam-Pam offers a special on top shelf whiskey for only 6 Aruban



florins (\$3.50)

If you are looking for the "real deal" in Caribbean entertainment and ambiance and a chance to rub elbows with islanders, schedule Pam-Pam Café as your Friday night entertainment!

Pam Pam restaurant

First-time patrons will be pleasantly surprised by an appealing a la carte menu that is quite affordably priced, and main courses,(25) which are priced between \$13 / \$22.

Pam-Pam's house specialty is a unique method of preparation, which presently,

in Aruba, is found only at their establishment and which they have dubbed their "Gourmet Meal." A grill and a collection of the freshest of ingredients for the various dishes ordered are assembled tableside, and patrons prepare the food themselves, controlling their preference of seasonings and garnishes, along with degree of doneness, providing a unique and personal taste treat. It is suggested that reservations for this singular dining experience be made one day in advance.

When you want to see restaurants menu, visit: www.visitaruba.com Phone; 5877710 or 5932660

"Aruhiba" Aruba's homemade cigar



ORANJESTAD - Benjamin Petrochi has started the newest

export product of Aruba, locally produced cigars called 'Aruhiba'. These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrochi has always had an interest in the cigar business and has also sold cigars from outside, and now he is growing his own tobacco crop. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba he started his own production and cultivation of 'Aruhiba" cigars in Aruba. The process took 5 years Petrochi's dedication to the cigars is important for the molding and



process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. The cigar case is specially designed for the cigars with the logo 'Aruhiba' and 'Made in Aruba'. Petrochi considers 'Aruhiba' a promotion for Aruba through fine quality cigars.

The company sells international cigars as well. Buy a gift box of Aruhiba Corona with five cigars and get 1 free for \$35.00.

Located at the Historic Dutch



Windmill from 9am to 8pm. Open on Sunday.

And also at Tamarijn: open 9am - 5pm and Sunday from 9am to 1pm.

The only place to get Aruhiba and all major credit cards accepted.

We have homemade and best premium Cuban Cigars. All cigars are legal through costum.

Call 586-7833 or 593-6177. Open for tour operators and we have a large parking space. Come and see Mr. Petrochi rolling the cigars everyday.









PEOPLE & ARTS A11 Saturday, February 7, 2009

Jolie visits camp for refugees from Myanmar

By GRANT PECK,

Associated Press Writer

BANGKOK – Hollywood star Angelina Jolie has called on Thailand to respect the human rights of Myanmar's Rohinyga boat people, after Thai authorities pushed hundreds of them out to sea, a U.N. spokeswoman said Friday.

Jolie — who is deeply involved in the plight of refugees in her capacity as a United Nations goodwill ambassador — toured one of several camps in Thailand sheltering refugees from Myanmar's military regime with her partner Brad Pitt on Wednesday.

U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees spokeswoman Kitt McKinsey told AP Television News it was a coincidence that Jolie visited the border camp just as the plight of the Rohingyas was catching the world's attention.

Some Rohingyas — who are denied citizenship in their native land — tried to land in Thailand recently after treacherous sea journeys only to be towed back to sea and cast adrift by the Thai navy. Indian officials rescued some but believe hundreds perished. McKinsey said Jolie "was extremely touched by the plight of the Rohingya people," and that she had expressed hope "that the human rights of the Rohingya people will be respected just as the human rights of everyone in the world should be respected."

The Rohingya boat people represent just a part of Myanmar's refugee exodus.

Hundreds of thousands of other ethnic minorities have fled by land across Myanmar's eastern border to Thailand for decades, mostly civilians caught up in fighting between the military and ethnic insurgents.

Many flee to Thai refugee camps where they remain for years with little chance of resettlement in third countries.

On Wednesday, Jolie slapped a bright blue U.N. baseball cap on her head and toured the bamboo huts of the Ban Mai Nai Soi camp, home to 18,111 mainly ethnic Karenni refugees, just two miles (three kilometers) from the Myanmar border, near the northern Thai town of Mae Hong Son.

There are between 116,000 and 135,000 refugees living in camps along the border.

In a news release, the U.N. agency said Jolie asked a 26-year-old woman, Pan Sein, whether she was afraid when

she made her perilous journey last year from her home village in Myanmar's Kayah State.

"Yes, I was scared," Pan Sein replied. "It was dangerous to flee, but even more dangerous to stay in my village."

Jolie's mission has taken her to more than 20 countries to comfort refugees and this was 33-year-old actress's third such trip to Thailand.

In this image made available in London by the United Nations High Commision for Refugees, Friday, Feb. 6, 2009, UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador Angelina Jolie smiles with Karenni refugee children in the Ban Mai Nai Soi refugee camp in northern Thailand, during a one-day visit on Wednesday, Feb. 4, 2009.

(AP Photo/ UNHCR/ K.McKinsey)



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10-DAY SALES EVENT

February 1st - 10th

Bringing more buyers and sellers together.

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Visit <u>www.coldwellbanker.aw</u> for complete information on a selection of homes at specially reduced prices.



Listing price \$155,000 Sale price \$147,250 Santa Cruz, List #280 3 bed, 2 bath, spacious



Listing price \$\frac{725,000}{690,000}\$
Sale price \$\frac{690,000}{690,000}\$
Salina Cerca, List #
362, 4 bed, 4 ½ bath



Listing price \$1,017,000 Sale price \$ 925,000 Cumana, List # 48 3 bed/3 bath, officesl



Listing price \$308,500 Sale price \$287,000 **Modansa Greenparcs** List #315, 3 bed/2 bath



Listing price \$1,200.000 Sale price \$1,000.000 **Malmok Oceanfront,** List # 370, 3 bed/3 bath



Listing price \$672,000 Sale price \$638,400 Seroe Blanco,List #419 4 bed, 3,5 bath



Listing price \$1,890.000 Sale price \$1,799.000 **Malmok**, List # 405, 4 bed, 4 ½ bath, villa



Listing price \$ 65,000 Sale price \$ 55,000 **Sabana Grandi land**, List # 97, 1500 m2



Listing price \$1,008.500 Sale price \$ 907,650 Caya Betico Croes Commercial, List # 381



Listing price \$520,000 Sale price \$468,000 Santa Cruz, List #384, Office Building



Listing price \$945,000 Sale price \$874,000 **Mesa Vista**, List #145 Golf, 4 bed, 3 ½ bath



Listing price \$550,000 Sale price \$525,000 Oceania, List #213 2 bed, 2 bath, view



Listing price \$1,000.000 Sale price \$ 900,000 **Sabana Blanco**, List # 233, 11 bed, 11 bath



Listing price \$495,000 Sale price \$445,500 **Ruby Villa**, List #333 3 bed, 3 bath



Listing price \$\frac{42,000}{37,800}\$ **Tamarijn land**, List #

155, 577 m2 / 6208 ft



Listing price \$495,000 Sale price \$445,500 **Ruby Villa**, List #334 3 bed, 3 bath



Listing price \$899,000 Sale price \$809,100 **Laguna Beach**, List # 281, 10 bed, 4 bath



Figaroastr. List # 209.

14 bed, 14 bath



Listing price \$228,000 Sale price \$216,600 **Ponton**, List #256 3 bed, 2 bath, Tropical



Listing price \$320,000 Sale price \$295,000 **Trupiaal Res.,** List #443, 3 bed, 2 ½ bath



Listing price \$549,000 Sale price \$523,000 Oceania Condo, List # 235, 2 bed, 2 bath



Listing price \$250,000 Sale price \$225,000 **Trupiaal**, List #400 4 bed, 2 ½ bath, safe



Listing price \$495,000 Sale price \$445,500 **Esmeralda**, List #332 3 bed, 3 bath



Listing price \$545,000 Sale price \$515,000 Seroe Alejandro, List # 158, 6 bed, 4 bath

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Saturday, February 7, 2009 PEOPLE & ARTS

o on the big obour

Oscar producers promise a new take on the big show



Oscar Producers Laurence Mark, left, and Bill Condon pose for a picture in Beverly Hills, Calif., Monday, Feb. 2, 2009.

(AP Photo/Chris Carlson)

By SANDY COHEN, AP Entertainment Writer

CULVER CITY, Calif. – Bill Condon and Laurence Mark breeze into their offices at Sony Studios for a quick break during another marathon workday. The writer-director and producer, who worked together on 2006's "Dreamgirls," are joining forces again — this time to put on the 81st annual Academy Awards.

It's the first time Condon, 53, and Mark, 59, have produced an Oscar telecast, and throughout the process, they've been making their own rules. They chose entertainer Hugh Jackman to host, rather than the usual standup comedian, and have kept nearly every element of the production — including presenters and performers — secret.

Not even members of the academy staff know who'll take the stage on the night of Feb. 22.

The maverick producers took a few minutes to share their thoughts with The Associated Press about how they're preparing for Hollywood's biggest night.

AP: What have your lives been like since you've taken

on this Oscar job?

Condon: We've both made a lot of movies, but it's never been as intense as this is. It really is. We're stumbling home at midnight every night and working on the weekends. It's a full-time thing.

Mark: Well because you have this deadline that is, well, finite. You can't fuss around ... You have a little leeway in movies, but you don't have any leeway here.

AP: How do you prepare for a job like this?

Condon: We watched a lot of old shows. We each had our favorites we went back to look at. Some of them held up, some of them didn't. We're both huge theater fans, so all of that stuff, and we both work in some way in live entertainment, so all of that comes in.

Mark: In a way, we do stand on the shoulders of all the Oscar producers before.

Condon: It's vaudeville. It really is putting on a vaudeville act and you've got 30 acts you're putting on basically and you hope that most of them are going to work.

AP: Why all the secrecy?

Condon: We wanted to restore a certain kind of mystery to it. When I look at the old shows, one of the great things is they're all giving this party and we're lucky to be invited to it. Recently it's become more just like a TV show where they promote everything, you know exactly who you're going to see. So I think you have to watch the show in order to find out what's going to happen, in order to see some of the dresses, in order to see some of the stars, and I think that just makes it more interesting as the thing goes on ... It just adds some interest.

Mark: We could just never figure out why you would say everything you were going to do before you did it. Why not just kind of do it and hope people tune in to see what you're doing.

AP: Could it backfire?

Mark: I think people tune in to see the Oscars. I don't think they tune in to see any one person, or any one person perform or present. I think they tune in to see the Oscars

and what we're all up to this year with them, so that is our theory.

AP: Did you get any resistance from the academy or the network with that approach? Mark: It took the academy a moment or two but I think they actually got on board very quickly with it. The academy has been around for a chunk of time and they do have traditions, and we're honoring as many of them as we can possibly manage to honor. But one or two (we're) breaking and they seem to enjoy the fact that things like this are going on, because by the way, you're talking about it, aren't you?

AP: How much room is there to revamp a show that requires 24 awards be presented on camera?

Condon: That is a given and it's a big chunk of the show: we're going to give out awards. The thing is maybe give them out in a different way, find a different way to present them. That's what we're hoping to do across the board, just freshen them up and surprise people again with the way these awards are given.

AP: Let's go through some of the rumors. True that you're taking some things out of the Kodak Theater?

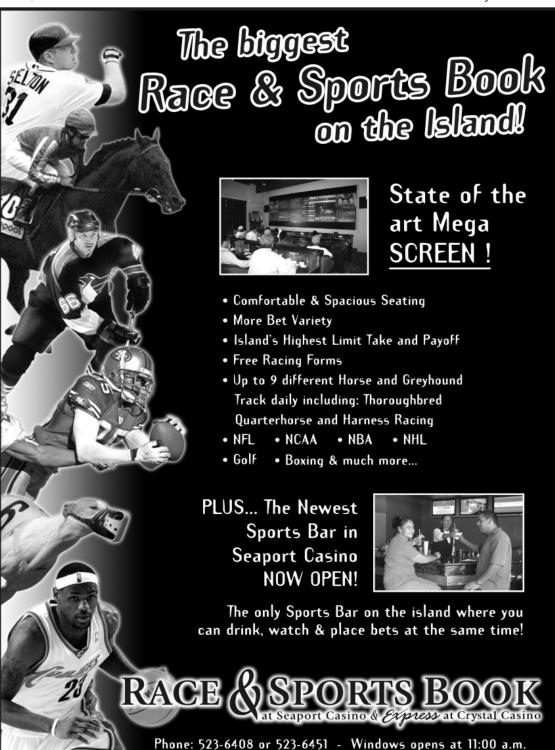
Mark: There may be a bit of that.

AP: Is it true presenters won't walk the red carpet?

Mark: Of course there will be some presenters on the red carpet for heaven's sake. But there will be some surprises, some presenters who won't be on the red carpet. But it's not like there's some edict going on here.

AP: Are you really planning to close the show with clips from forthcoming films?

Mark: We're collecting them. The theory being this was 2008, and look at all the things you may have to look forward to in 2009 so that the show doesn't just end with "Good night." Condon: It keeps you watching right through. The one rule we have is it's nothing that's appeared on trailers so it will be — if it works — a glimpse of stuff you've never seen before of the movies coming up.



BUSINESS A13 Saturday, February 7, 2009

BISINESS TODAY

Wall Street shrugs off 598K job cuts in January



Cheryl Fellows, 47, of Germantown, Md., searches for jobs on a computer at the Germantown Public Library on Friday, Feb. 6, 2009. 'I'm looking for electrical jobs, plumbing, I'll do any kind of manual labor like that,' says Fellows, a mortgage broker who has been out of work since April 2008, 'it's really bad out there.'

By MADLEN READ and TIM PARADIS,

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK - Wall Street has had another big rally as investors bet the government will take some big steps to help the economy. All the major indexes rose more than 2 percent Friday, including the Dow Jones industrial average, which rose more than 200 points as investors looked past another bleak jobs report and awaited word from Washington about an economic stimulus plan and changes to the government's financial rescue program.

The Senate was expected to vote on its version of a stimulus plan that would include a mix of spending and tax cuts. The Senate bill would cost \$937 billion; the House already passed a similar version.

Financial stocks led the market as investors also awaited the government's latest revisions to its lifeline for banks. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner and other top officials are close to finishing a plan to overhaul the government's \$700 billion financial rescue fund. Geithner is expected to announce the changes in a speech on Monday.

Some investors had been worried that the changes would involve nationalizing many banks and, in the process, wiping out shareholders. Many investors are hoping the

(AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin)

plan will relax rules requiring businesses to assign a value to all of their assets each quarter. Advocates say altering the rule even temporarily could make it easier for banks to lend without worrying about depleting their cash reserves and running afoul of accounting standards.

Investors focusing on the government's plans were unfazed by a terrible employment reading. The Labor Department said U.S. employers slashed 598,000 jobs in January, the most since late 1974. The unemployment rate rose to 7.6 percent, the highest since late 1992.

But the market has been bracing for the wave of layoffs to hit the economy and are now looking for the response from the Obama administration and lawmakers.

"All focus right now is now is really on Washington," said Dan Cook, senior market analyst at IG Markets in Chicago. He said investors are hoping the unemployment report was bad enough that it goads lawmakers into swift action on the stimulus plan. "It's the hope that the Senate will act and get this approved."

Stocks have been getting a lift on expectations the plan will pass, analysts say.

Scott Fullman, director of derivatives investment strategy for WJB Capital Group in New York, said investors now are wondering "will government stimulus stop this virus that's spreading throughout the country?"

According to preliminary calculations, the Dow industrials rose 217.52, or 2.70 percent, to 8,280.59 after rising 106 on Thursday.

Broader stock indicators also jumped. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 22.75, or 2.69 percent, to 868.60, and the Nasdaq composite index rose 45.47, or 2.94 percent, to 1,591.71.

The day's gains have left the Nasdaq higher for the year; investors have been turning to the index's tech stocks on the belief they will help lead the market higher.

The Russell 2000 index of smaller companies rose 15.62, or 3.43 percent, to 470.70.

Advancing issues outnumbered decliners by about 5 to 1 on the New York Stock Exchange, where volume came to 1.61 billion shares.

On Thursday, the major indexes soared more than 1 percent as Wall Street shrugged off troubling economic reports and searched for bargains among battered retail and technology stocks.

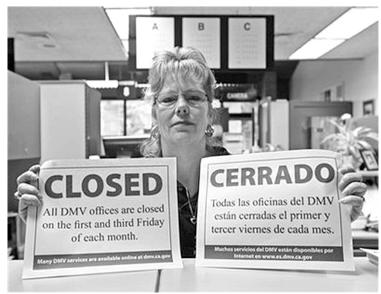
Bond prices were mixed Friday. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note, which moves opposite its price, rose to 2.98 percent from 2.92 percent late Thursday. The yield on the three-month T-bill, considered one of the safest investments, rose to 0.28 percent from 0.26 percent.

The dollar was mostly higher against other major currencies. Gold prices fell.

Light, sweet crude fell \$1 to \$40.17 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Cook said investors are eager for the stimulus plan to pass even if it takes time to work its way into the economy, as many economists predict.

"We just want to see a plan and have a direction," he said of investors.



Candy Jackson, manager of the Department of Motor Vehicles office in Placerville, Calif., displays the warning signs that the office will be closed Friday, on Thursday, Feb. 5, 2009. State agencies were preparing Thursday to implement the first employee furloughs in California history, as part of Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's attempt to save money, in the face of a massive budget crisis. An estimated 90 percent of the state's 238,000 employees are supposed to be off Friday.

(AP Photo/Rich Pedroncelli)

Calif. employees forced to take off without pay

By JUDY LIN,

Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – California drivers who needed to renew their licenses or registration found no one to help Friday at the Department of Motor Vehicles. The doors to the state health agency were locked, too.

Even Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's emergency services office was dark.

Hundreds of state offices closed because there was nobody to run them: More than 200,000 state employees had to take the day off Friday without pay to help ease California's budget crisis

Schwarzenegger ordered employees to take two unpaid days off a month, hoping to save the state \$1.3 billion through June 2010, when the mass furloughs are expected to end.

Critical services such as state fire stations and centers that process unemployment insurance claims remained open, as well as state parks.

The days off, expected to be the first and third Fridays of each month, will trim the average state worker's salary by 9.2 percent as Schwarzenegger and lawmakers try to solve a \$42 billion budget shortfall. "It feels like we're being punished because we chose a career in state government," said Shelia Byars, 47, a hearing officer at the Department of Motor Vehicles in Van Nuys. Byars, who expected to lose \$400 a month, was among about a dozen union members protesting outside the agency's office in downtown Los Angeles. She said it didn't make sense to close 180 DMV locations because they collect revenue for the state through licenses and registration fees.

The California furloughs began as the latest national unemployment numbers underscored how quickly the recession is deepening. The nation's employers shed 598,000 jobs in January, the highest number in 35 years. In all, 3.6 million Americans have lost jobs since the start of the downturn.

Saturday, February 7, 2009 COMMENTA

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Obama's faith in faith-based works

By the Monitor's Editorial Board

Barack Obama was not raised in a religious household, but his work as a Chicago community organizer – funded by a Christian group – stirred up a faith that begets good works. His plan to keep a White House office for federal aid to faith-based charities carries forward a vital service, but one that could conflict with religious liberty.

It was George W. Bush who first set up a White House office to help religious groups in fighting America's difficult social problems. These "armies of compassion" are on the front lines feeding and sheltering the poor, helping with drug and prison rehab, counseling troubled families.

If given far greater access to federal funds, Mr. Bush reasoned, the groups could multiply their good deeds. And so the White House set up 12 field offices in federal agencies to encourage faith-based groups, along with secular ones, to apply for grants. Now President Obama is expanding the service vision. He wants his renamed Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, which he announced this week, to also push summer learning for disadvantaged kids, and to help reduce abortion. His 25-member council of religious and secular leaders will also act as a sounding board on domestic and foreign policy - for instance, on Muslim outreach.

These are worthy activities, but like Bush, this president faces a conundrum over the separation of church and state.

In 2000, the Supreme Court ruled that the government may directly fund religious groups, as long as the groups use the money for secular programs.

Americans overwhelmingly favor this. But according to a 2008 Pew Research Center poll, they also strongly believe these groups should not be allowed to hire only people who share their religious beliefs – the heart of today's legal controversy. Religious groups claim hiring exemption under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which gives them leeway to employ only those who share their religious views.

But the law is not clear on whether this right extends to religious groups that receive federal funds, which critics say is discriminatory. Some federal statutes require faith-based groups to throw open the hiring doors for select activities, such as jobtraining programs. But in 2007, the Bush administration issued a memo arguing that these statutes place "substantial burdens" on religious groups, whose identity and mission would suffer if forced to hire nonadherents.

As presidential candidate, Obama pledged that faith-based groups receiving federal aid would not "discriminate" in hiring. But as president, he has decided to not rush this complex question, and he did not rescind Bush's hiring guidelines. Instead, he set up a process for hiring review.







"AIN'T A HOSS CAN'T



In John Updike's America, are we still running from responsibility?

By Tom Ragan

Santa Cruz, Calif. - While no death should be fitting, the passing of acclaimed writer John Updike last week seemed sadly scripted. The man who chronicled suburban America's constant dilemma between duty and desire left us just as we're coming to grips with the consequences of running from responsibility.

Today, as the country tries to cope with vanishing jobs and declining confidence, some are dusting off the work of 20th-century economist John Maynard Keynes.

We'd be better served by reading Mr. Updike's 1960 novel, "Rabbit, Run."

A trillion-dollar stimulus may or may not dig us out of our dire straits. But this much is certain: Only if we face up to our obsession with instant gratification and the temptation to flee when times get tough can we begin to heal our national soul.

If a plane safely crash-landing into the Hudson River can serve as a metaphor to something finally going right in America, then reading Updike is a sorry reminder of how good it used to be. The post-World War II boom – the setting for much of his literature - delivered

fine economic times. It light on the harsh implications spawned suburbs with culde-sacs and fashioned peachy communities.

But fruit rots, and Updike exposed it to its core - the sort of mind-set that led to the excess and dependence on credit that now jeopardizes middle-class America.

In Updike's day, we coveted our neighbor's wife. More recently, we've coveted our neighbor's granite countertops. Both seek to glamorize suburban life; both can end in ruin.

The timeless and universal appeal of Updike's central character, Harry "Rabbit" Angstrom, was that he had a breaking point. And one day he decided to run. He left his wife, and his kid, and his awful job selling used cars in his fatherin-law's lot. Not exactly the greatest job for someone who used to be one of the greatest high school basketball stars in the dying town of Mount Judge. Hey, he didn't ask for this life, but somehow he got it, mostly of his own doing. So instead of manning up, he ditches it, finding happiness in getting away, however temporarily, regardless of the tragic consequences.

In the telling, Updike shines a pews at church.

of acting on impulse.

Who among us hasn't thought of just picking up and booking? Who among us hasn't fallen into the "coulda, woulda, and shoulda" syndrome and moments of self-pity? Who among us hasn't dwelled on the glory of the past and tried to reclaim it by riding its coattails during tough times? There's a reason why Bruce

Springsteen sang "Glory Days" as his final song at the Super Bowl last weekend. We want them back. There's a reason why late-night commercials hawk exercise equipment with lines such as, "Look at me: I'm 50 years old and I'm in a rock band!" There are reasons why ESPN constantly runs highlights of the greatest games. They're perfection frozen in time.

But in the end, you can't press the rewind button in the passage of life, and no matter how much you try to run, there's no escaping yourself. That's why we, much like Rabbit, tend to look to quick fixes that involve escape, although on smaller, lesstragic scales.

We self-medicate, and we hit the treadmill at the gym or the

LOCAL A15
Saturday, February 7, 2009



Everlasting Love...

Samia & Joshua vow there love as one at sunset



Wedding Special Edition by Angela Munzenhofer

AMSTERD MANOR- On February 4, 2009 Samia Beers & Joshua Ames of Boston, Massachusetts said "I Do". The lovebirds met through friends 2 years ago and within three weeks they were dating.



They have a lot in common including they love to travel and love for the family. After a short dating period of 1 ½ years Joshua proposed. The summer of 2008 in July after a game of Scrabble on the beach was the perfect day for him to pronounce his love with letters mixed up which Samia had to unscramble which spelled out "Marry Me". Samia has been on the island once before since the family owns a timeshare at Marriott Surf Club for the last 4 years. This was Joshua's first time to the island and they both said they will spend their anniversary every year where they both vowed there love as one.

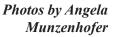
The wedding plans started off as just the two of them on a beach and ended with a

gorgeous wedding in Aruba with loved ones. Lissy Lampe of Ceremonies & Celebrations Aruba orchestrated everything from The bridal party, mom and Samia were picked up from Marriott in the extended Hummer Limousine and were driven to Amsterdam Manor on Eagle Beach where the ceremony was taken place. Everything perfect was as she walked down the aisle to meet Joshua. Andy Osbourne delivered romantic ceremony along with 41 guests who flew in from all over the U.S.A and Monaco. The stunning couple vowed their love and became one at sunset. Bella Aruba Photography captured the wedding from every angle.

After the photo shoot everyone dined at the breathtaking Passions Restaurant adjacent to the ceremony site. Toasts were given, wedding cake was cut and dinner was served in a tropical ambiance. D.J Tino had everyone dancing under the stars with his music that just kept everyone on their toes. A special thanks goes to both wedding coordinators, Anne Maduro of Amsterdam Manor and Lissy Lampe of Ceremonies & Celebrations in



Aruba for a fantastic evening that everyone will never forget. Another special thanks goes to Samia's mother Jamila Talhi & Dr. Vladmir Formanek for making their wedding dreams possible.







Saturday, February 7, 2009 ADVERTISEMENT

Aruba TODAY

Ease out your week with Le Dôme's Sunday à la Carte Brunch It's more than a tradition... it is a culinary art by Le Dôme's Chef Michael van Dorst



LONDON/PARIS - The tradition of Brunch dates back to the 19th century. This blend of breakfast and lunch was founded on the principles of leisure of the privileged in Britain. Though, it didn't take long before the French adopted this rich tradition and turned it a true culinary art. In 1895 Guy Beringer wrote in a visionary article: "Brunch is cheerful, sociable and inciting. It is talk-compelling. It puts you in a good temper, it

makes you satisfied with yourself and your fellow beings, and it sweeps away the worries of the week." Today the basic principles Beringer described so well, still stand. More then ever Sunday Brunch is a weekly highlight and gives many around the world the perfect moment for recapping and reflection.

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Casa Tua pizzas range in price from \$10 to \$16 with outstanding choices such as the Frutti di Mare which is topped with tomato sauce, cheese, seafood, garlic and parsley or the Quattro Stag-



gioni (Vegetarian) which is loaded with the perfect combination of tomato sauce, cheese, artichoke, marinated sweet red pepper, Paris white mushrooms and ripe olives. Other pizza topping selections include tiger shrimp, goat cheese, tuna, Spanish sausage, smoked salmon with capers as well as something as simple as a Margarita pizza with just tomato sauce & cheese or add ham or pepperoni.

Casa Tua presents a fresh approach to dining in Aruba.

The outdoor atmosphere

is cool and relaxed; the name says it all "Casa Tua" meaning "Your Home" in Italian. The menu doesn't stop with just pizzas at Casa Tua. They feature incredible appetizers including shrimp bruschetta, fresh marinated seafood, escargots, amazing salads, homemade soups starting at \$6 and authentic Italian lasagnas & pasta dishes starting at just \$14. Every dish is perfect from the Fettuccini Alfredo which is the famous Roman dish made with cheese, cream butter, fresh, dried basil and garlic to the Linguine Tarentina which is jumbo shrimps, fresh tomato sauce with fish squid



and mussels, sauteed in olive oil with fresh garlic, served on a bed of linguini noodles.

The staff at this popular eatery has set the standard on the island for the term "great service" not only with your dinning pleasure, but recognized as 'the' professionals in assisting guests with the perfect cocktail, paired wine or other beverages. After just one dinner at Casa

Tua, you'll know you're home in this family owned eatery. Victor Nataf and his son Gregory are always there to welcome you with the rest of their staff. Gregory spends most of his time in the kitchen as the head chef repeating the recipes and perfect preparations passed to him from his father, aunt and uncles who are renowned for their Mediterranean flair throughout France.

Of course we saved the best for last as no one does an ending better than Casa Tua with their dreamy Tiramisu, Profiterolles au Chocolat chaud, or Banana 'Casa Tua'. Located at Arawak Gardens 🗖

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Saturday, February 7, 2009



President Barack Obama tugs on a tight pen cap after he signed an executive order establishing the Economic Recovery Advisory Board as its members look on, Friday, Feb. 6, 2009, in the East Room of the White House in Washington.

Associated Press

Senators reach deal to cut stimulus bill to \$780 billion

By ANDREW TAYLOR Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON - With job losses soaring nationwide, Senate Democrats reached with agreement key Republicans Friday night on an economic stimulus measure at the heart of President Barack Obama's plan for combatting the worst recession in decades. "The American people want us to work together. They don't want to see us dividing along partisan lines on the most serious crisis confronting our country," said Sen. Susan Collins of Maine, one of two GOP senators who signaled support for the bill.

Officials put the cost of the measure at \$780 billion in tax cuts and new spending combined. No details were immediately available, and there appeared to be some confusion even among senators about the price tag as floor debate continued late into the night.

The agreement capped a tense day of backroom negotiations in which Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, joined by White House chief of staff Rahm Emanuel, sought to attract the support of enough Republicans to give the measure the needed 60-vote majority.

In addition to Collins, Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., said he would vote for the bill. Sen. Olympia Snowe, R-Maine, remained uncommitted.

Officials said Sen. Edward M. Kennedy's vote might be needed for passage, depending on the number of Republicans who decided to swing behind the measure. The Massachusetts Democrat, battling a brain tumor, has been in Florida in recent days and has not been in the Capitol since suffering a seizure on Inauguration Day more than two weeks ago. The senator's office did not comment.

At \$780 billion, the legislation

would be smaller than the measure that cleared the House on a party-line vote last week. It also would mean a sharp cut from the version that has been the subject of Senate debate for a week. That measure stood at \$937 billion.

Beyond the numbers, though, any agreement would mark a victory for the new president and would keep Democratic leaders on track to fulfill their promise of delivering him a bill to sign by the end of next week. Obama said further delay would be "inexcusable and irresponsible" given Friday's worst monthly unemployment report in a generation — 598,000 jobs lost in January and the national unemployment rate rising to 7.6 percent. Late in the day federal regulators announced the closure of First Bank Financial Services in Georgia, the seventh failure this year of a federally insured bank.

Continued on Next Page

FDA: Plant knowingly sold salmonella-laced food



WASHINGTON – A Georgia peanut plant knowingly shipped salmonella-laced products as far back as 2007, at times sending out tainted products after tests confirmed contamination, according to inspection records released Friday.

Food and Drug Administration officials earlier had said Peanut Corp. of America waited for a second test to clear peanut butter and peanuts that initially were positive for salmonella. But the agency amended its report Friday, noting that the Blakely, Ga., plant actually shipped some products before receiving the second test and sold others after confirming salmonella.

Federal law forbids producing or shipping foods under conditions that could make it harmful to consumers' health.

Continued on page B3



A flock of sheep walk past a military base, which is located with the Manas civilian airport near Kyrgyzstan's capital Bishkek, Wednesday, Feb. 4, 2009. Kyrgyzstan's government submitted a draft bill to parliament Wednesday to revoke the country's hosting of a U.S. base that is an important component of the Afghanistan military campaign.

Associated Press

Russia allows transit of U.S. military supplies

By MIKE ECKEL

Associated Press Writer

MOSCOW (AP) - Russia granted transit rights Friday to non-lethal U.S. military supplies headed to Afghanistan but only after apparently pressuring a former Soviet state to close an air base leased to the Americans.

The signal from Moscow: Russia is willing to help on Afghanistan, but only on the Kremlin's terms.

Continued on Page B6

Saturday, February 7, 2009 U.S. NEWS

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Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., left, and Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine talk to reporters on Capitol Hill in Washington, Friday, Feb. 6, 2009, as they wait for an elevator after a meeting with Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nev. on the economic stimulus legislation.

Associated Press



STIMULUS BILL Continued from Front Page

"The world is waiting to see what we're going to do in the next 24 hours," said Reid who has spent much of the week trying to balance demands among moderates in both parties against pressure for a larger bill from liberals in his own rank and file.

By midday, the majority leader had spoken once with Obama by phone and five times with Emanuel. He met with Collins and Specter as well as Sen. Ben Nelson, a conservative Nebraska Democrat who had long advocated cuts in the House-passed bill.

"We're clearly not there yet," Collins said at one point. She spoke with Obama at the White House earlier in the week, though, and told reporters as she shuttled between meetings in the Capitol, "I'm still hopeful that we can achieve a compromise because the stakes are high and the goal is important."

Republican-proposed One document that circulated earlier called for cuts of \$60 billion from money Democrats want to send to the states. That money is targeted to avoid budget cuts for schools as well as law enforcement and other programs.

Talk of cuts in proposed education funds triggered a counterattack from advocates of school spending as well as unhappiness among Democrats.

One, Sen. Carl Levin of Michigan, told reporters he and others hoped that some of the funds on the chopping block would be restored next week when negotiations open on a House-Senate compromise.

At its core, the legislation is designed to ease the worst economic recession in

generations, and combines critical of the House-passed hundreds of billions of dollars in new spending with tax cuts. Much of the money would go for victims of the recession in the form of food stamps, unemployment compensation and health care.

There are funds, as well, for construction of highways and bridges.

But the administration also decided to use the bill to make a down payment on key domestic initiatives, including creation of a new health technology industry and socalled green jobs designed to make the country less dependent on imported oil.

And Democrats in Congress decided to add additional huge sums for the states struggling with the recession, as well as billions more for favored programs such as parks, the repair of monuments in federal cemeteries, health and science research and more.

With Obama enjoying postinauguration support the polls and the economy shrinking, Democratic leaders in Congress have confidently predicted they would have a bill to the president's desk by mid-February.

But Republicans, freed of the need to defend former President George W. Bush's policies, have pivoted quickly to criticize the bill for its size and what they consider wasteful spending.

The entire Republican rank and file voted against the measure in the House, effectively prodding senators to take up the same cause.

In the intervening days, Republicans have appeared to catch the administration and its allies off-guard, holding up relatively small items for ridicule and routinely seizing on comments from Democrats

At the same time, they have stressed a desire to help the economy but have said they prefer tax cuts and spending that would have a more immediate impact on job creation.

Democrats hold a 58-41 majority in the Senate, including two independents, but it takes 60 votes to pass the bill because it would raise the federal deficit.

Privately, Democrats Congress have been critical of Obama and his aides for failing to counter the Republicans more effectively. In recent days, the president has sharpened his rhetoric against unnamed critics of the bill whom he accused of trying to re-establish the "failed policies" of the past eight years.

As Reid struggled to nail down the necessary votes, the White House announced Obama would travel to Florida and Indiana next week to campaign for a stimulus measure.

Both states have Republican senators. The president also is scheduled to hold a primetime news conference on Monday where questions about the economy are likely to dominate.

Despite the struggle, some Republicans seemed to sense the White House would ultimately prevail, and sought political mileage.

Obama "could have had a very, very impressive victory early on," said Sen. John Cornyn of Texas, who heads the Senate Republican campaign committee. "But this is not turning out to be an impressive victory. it is turning out to be a little bit of a black eye."

U.S. NEWS B3 Saturday, February 7, 2009

SALMONELLA Continued from Page B1

In 2007 the company shipped chopped peanuts on July 18 and 24 after salmonella was confirmed by private lab tests. Peanut Corp. sold products "on or after the positive salmonella results were obtained," the FDA report states.

In other cases, the company didn't wait for a second round of salmonella tests.

"In some instances, peanut products were shipped by (the company) prior to having assurance that the products were negative for salmonella," said Michael Rogers, head of field investigations for the FDA.

Rogers said the FDA made the discovery after a more detailed analysis of records submitted by the company.

The salmonella outbreak has been blamed for at least eight deaths and 575 illnesses in 43 states. The Justice Department opened a criminal investigation. More than 1,550 products have been recalled.

A Peanut Corp. lawyer said the company is investigating what happened at the plant and had no comment on the latest FDA findings.

"We have not made a determination yet on liability," said attorney Amy Rotenberg. "We are neither denying or admitting liability at this point. We are still investigating."

Peanut Corp. previously said it "categorically denies any allegations" that it sought lab results that would put its products in a favorable light. Problems at the plant are not

new. FDA inspectors found in 2001 that products potentially were exposed to insecticides, one of several violations uncovered during the last visit federal officials made before the current food-poisoning scare, according to a report obtained by The Associated

Also on Friday, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said he supports merging the nation's food-safety system into one agency. His department shares duties now with the FDA.

The USDA abruptly suspended all business with the company this week. It shipped some of the company's potentially contaminated peanut butter and peanuts to eight states, including school lunch programs in California, Minnesota and Idaho in 2007. None of the states reported illnesses as a result of people eating the products, agency officials said.

Some of the problems FDA discovered at the plant in 2001 are similar to those found last month, when federal inspectors returned to the plant after nearly eight years. The 2001 inspection found dead insects near peanuts and holes in the plant big enough for rodents to enter.

The inspectors also discovered that workers at the plant used an insecticide fogger in food processing areas and didn't wash the exposed equipment. They also found dirty duct tape wrapped on broken equipment.

FDA inspectors did not find evidence of insecticides in



Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, left, talks with the committee's ranking Republican Sen. Saxby Chambliss, R-Ga. on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, Feb. 5, 2009, during the committee's hearing on the salmonella outbreak related to peanut butter.

Associated Press

peanuts at the plant during that visit. Company officials told them the fogger was last used two weeks earlier, according to the inspection report.

The USDA was one of Peanut Corp.'s two biggest clients at the time. USDA officials also regularly visited the plant, including in recent years. But those agency workers were not trained to perform food safety inspections, USDA spokesman Jerry Redding said.

The USDA visits to the plant were made by "contract auditors" who are "number crunchers," Redding said, who know nothing about peanuts. They only visited to review records, he said.

Plant owner Stewart Parnell

told FDA inspectors in 2001 that USDA officials knew about the insecticide fogger and approved use of the duct tape on broken equipment, the FDA inspection report says.

insecticide fogger The discovered by inspectors noted on its labels that any exposed equipment should be thoroughly washed after use. Plant workers covered some areas, and told inspectors that no peanuts were in any equipment when the foggers were used at night.

The plant manager told inspectors that workers didn't clean the exposed areas and didn't realize the insecticide couldn't be used around food. Parnell promised that he would correct the problems because he "wanted to assure us that he wanted his firm to be in compliance," FDA inspectors wrote

Parnell told inspectors that

the insecticide's "labeling had been changed and they had not been aware of the change," according to the FDA report. Parnell and the plant manager said the company was assured by the insecticide supplier that the chemical was safe for use

FDA officials said Friday the company was allowed in 2001 to fix the problems on its own because the inspection showed no evidence that finished products were being contaminated.

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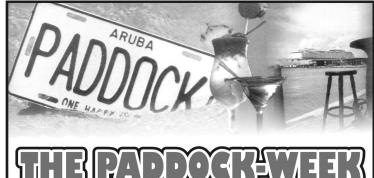
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Saturday, February 7, 2009 POLITICS





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Alaska Senate: Palin's husband, staff in contempt



In this Jan. 22, 2009 file photo, Todd Palin, left, the husband of Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, holds their son Trig, as Gov. Palin gives the state of the state address to a joint session of the state Senate and House in the Capitol in Juneau, Alaska.

Associated Press

By ANNE SUTTON **Associated Press Writer**

JUNEAU, Alaska - The Alaska Senate on Friday found Gov. Sarah Palin's husband and nine state employees, including some of her top aides, in contempt for ignoring subpoenas to testify in the Legislature's Troopergate investigation.

The Senate said it would seek no punishment for the witnesses' failure to appear before the Senate Judiciary Committee last fall in an investigation into the governor's firing of her public safety commissioner, Walt Monegan.

"During the Monegan investigation, we were reminded that the legislative branch's power of subpoena is an important one, and must be respected by the executive branch," said Sen. Hollis French, D-Anchorage. "With this resolution, the Senate is making it clear that we are a coequal branch of state government."

The witnesses later provided sworn written statements after a lawsuit filed on behalf of seven of the state employees by state Attorney General Talis Colberg was dismissed in Superior Court. The case was appealed to the state Supreme Court.

The investigation was looking into whether Palin, assisted by aides and her husband, Todd, pressured Monegan to fire a state trooper — the ex-husband of Palin's sister — and then fired Monegan when he refused. Palin said Monegan was ousted over budget disagreements.

Attorney Thomas Van Flein, who represented Todd Palin, said there was no contempt because his client initially provided the proper objection to the subpoena and later complied with a written statement.

Van Flein said the Senate should have allowed witnesses an opportunity to state their case before issuing the resolution.

"They didn't allow any opportunity to present actual evidence and facts. It appears to be pure political grandstanding," he said.

Colberg was not immediately available for comment Friday. Palin's spokesman Bill McAllister said the governor had no comment.

French said the witnesses' decision to eventually provide written statements led to the Senate's decision not to impose any penalties. State statute provides for fines and a maximum of six months in jail for contempt of legislative subpoenas.

French said the resolution was meant to strike a balance and, in so doing, represented the Senate at its best. The lone dissenter in the 16-1 vote, Anchorage Republican Con Bunde,

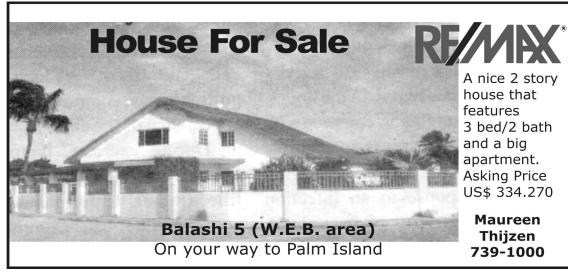
"We rehash an old issue and then decide to do nothing about it, I hope that's not our best," Bunde said.

Democrats and Republicans each have 10 seats in the state Senate, but it is led by a bipartisan coalition that includes all the Democrats and six of the Republicans.

Palin initially said she would cooperate fully in the legislative investigation but that changed after the matter became politically charged when she was named Republican presidential candidate John McCain's running mate.

Two separate investigations looked into the matter of Monegan's firing.

The legislative special counsel, Stephen Branchflower, found that Palin had abused her office but the firing was legal since Monegan was an at-will employee.



U.S. REGIONAL B5
Saturday, February 7, 2009



lifornia Medical Board probes octuplet birth

SHAYA TAYEFE $\mathbf{B}\mathbf{y}$ **MOHAJER**

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) The fertility doctor who helped a California woman have 14 children, including octuplets born last month, is now facing a state investigation on top of harsh criticism from medical ethicists.

The Medical Board of California did not identify the doctor who helped Nadya Suleman, 33, of Whittier, become pregnant with the six boys and two girls born on Jan. 26., even though she already had six other children.

"We're looking into the matter to see if we can substantiate if there was a violation of the standard of care," board spokeswoman Candis Cohen said Friday.

Suleman, a divorced single mother, told NBC's "Today" show that the same fertility specialist provided in vitro fertilization for all 14 children.

In the interview broadcast Friday, Suleman also said six embryos were implanted for each of her pregnancies. In her latest, two of Suleman's embryos split, resulting in two sets of twins among the octuplets.

When asked why so many embryos were implanted, Suleman said: "Those are my children, and that's what was available and I used them. So, I took a risk. It's a gamble. It always is."

Doctors say the norm is to implant two or three embryos, at most, in women Suleman's age.

"The revelation about one center treating her makes the treatment even harder to understand," said Arthur Caplan, bioethics chairman at the University of Pennsylvania. "They went ahead when she had six kids,

knowing that she was a single mom ... and put embryos into her anyway."

Suleman's infants were born prematurely and are expected to remain in the hospital for several more weeks. Her six other children are between ages 2 and 7.

Suleman said she had never been on welfare and would find a way to get by with the help of family, friends and her church. She said she planned to return to school in the fall.

The births have raised questions about how the woman will be able to care for all of her children. Los Angeles County child welfare spokesman Stu Riskin said the agency doesn't respond unless there has been a complaint, and such complaints are confidential.

"All I wanted was children. I wanted to be a mom. That's all I ever wanted in my life," Suleman said in the portion of the interview that aired Friday. "I love my children."

She said she struggled for seven years before finally giving birth to her first child.

According to state documents, Suleman told a doctor she had three miscarriages. Another doctor disputed that number, saying she had two ectopic pregnancies, a dangerous condition in which a fertilized egg implants somewhere other

The state documents describe Suleman becoming pregnant with her first child after a 1999 injury during a riot at a state mental hospital where she worked. Suleman feared she would lose the child and sunk into an intense depression, according to a psychological evaluation in her workers' compensation case.

"When you have a history of miscarriages, you think it will take a miracle," she told Dr. Dennis Nehamen. "I just wanted to die. I suspected I was pregnant but I thought, 'That's ridiculous."

But the 2001 birth of the baby "helped my spirits," Suleman

More than 300 pages of documents were disclosed to The Associated Press following a public records

than in the uterus.

This image provided by NBC shows Nadya Suleman, left, speaking with Ann Curry in New York on Thursday, Feb. 5, 2009, in Suleman's first interview since giving birth to octuplets last week. The interview is planned to be broadcast on the "Today" show on Monday, Feb. 9 and "Dateline" on Tuesday, Feb. 10.

Among other things, they more than \$165,000 in helped end her marriage.

request to the state Division disability payments between of Workers' Compensation. 2002 and 2008 for the work injury, which she said left reveal that Suleman collected her in near-constant pain and

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Saturday, February 7, 2009 WORLD NEWS



Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov speaks in Moscow, Russia, Friday, Jan. 16, 2009. Lavrov has said Russia hopes the new U.S. president will not raise tensions by making Ukraine and Georgia's membership in NATO a priority. Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said Russia had agreed days earlier to allow transit of U.S. non-lethal supplies to Afghanistan.

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Associated Press

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MLITARY SUPPLIES Continued from Page B1

Kyrgyzstan announced the closure of the Manas air base but American officials suspect

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UNDERWORLD: RISE OF THE LYCANS

that Russia was behind the decision, having long been irritated by the U.S presence in central Asia.

The Russian decision

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let U.S. supplies cross its territory opened another route to those through Pakistan now threatened by militant attacks, but U.S. officials were still left scrambling for alternatives to Manas.

Russia wants to open discussions on thorny policy issues that Washington and Moscow have clashed on in recent years - NATO enlargement, missile defense in Europe, a new arms strategic control treaty. More importantly, Russia's expectation is that Washington must go through Moscow where Central Asia is concerned.

Russia may also be showing Washington that its positions aren't immovable - particularly where Afghanistan concerned. Russia fears Afghanistan is collapsing into anarchy, leading to instability or Islamic radicals migrating northward through Central Asia.

Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said Russia had agreed days earlier to allow transit of U.S. non-lethal supplies to Afghanistan.

"We are now waiting for the American partners to provide a specific request with a quantity and description of cargo," Lavrov said Friday in remarks broadcast by Vesti-24 TV. "As soon as they do that we will issue relevant permissions."

He and other officials did not say whether the U.S. will be offered air or land transit corridors. Any new transit routes are unlikely to make up for the loss of Manas, home to tanker planes that refuel warplanes flying over Afghanistan as well as airlifts medical and evacuation operations.

The Kremlin last year signed a framework deal with NATO for transit of non-lethal cargo for coalition forces in Afghanistan and has allowed some alliance members, including Germany, France and Spain, to move supplies across its territory.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Lyakin-Frolov Germany has been using air and land routes and France so far only has used air transit. Ground routes through

Russia would likely cross into Kazakhstan and then Uzbekistan before entering northern Afghanistan.

The U.S. has reached a preliminary deal with Kazakhstan to use its territory

and officials have said they are considering resuming military cooperation with Uzbekistan, which neighbors Afghanistan. That option is problematic for Washington: Uzbekistan kicked U.S. forces out of a base there after sharp U.S. criticism of the country's human rights record and the government's brutal quashing of a 2005 uprising.

4ruba TODAY

Renewing those ties would also open the United States to new accusations it is working with an authoritarian government that tortures its citizens. Uzbekistan has also in the past faced a low-level insurgency from Islamic radicals, though a government crackdown has quelled much

U.S. officials have repeatedly said talks with Kyrgyzstan on the Manas base are still ongoing. U.S. State Department spokesman Gordon Duguid suggested Friday that Kyrgyz officials may be divided over whether to close the base, a source of income for the impoverished nation.

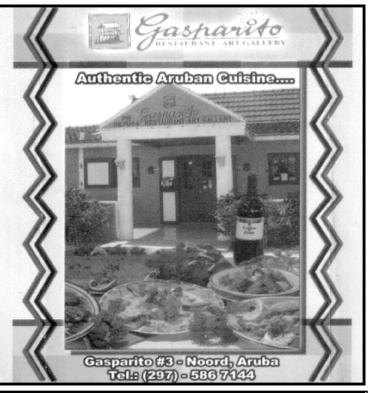
"They've not told us they reached a final decision,' Duguid said.

Kyrgyzstan's parliament delayed a vote on the government's decision until next week, and some Kyrgyz officials have indicated they may be willing to discuss the issue with the United States.

But National Security Council chief Adakhan Madumarov said Friday the decision to close the base was final.

"There is no doubt the bill to revoke the basing agreement will be ratified," he said. "The fate of the air base has been sealed."

In a separate development, Tajikistan's president pledged Friday that his government would allow the transit of nonmilitary supplies to coalition troops based in neighboring Afghanistan.



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WORLD NEWS | B7 | Saturday, February 7, 2009



Ships collide in Antarctic Ocean whaling clash

By KRISTEN GELINEAU Associated Press Writer

SYDNEY (AP) - A group of radical anti-whaling activists said they were pelted with bloody chunks of whale meat and blubber after their boat collided Friday with a Japanese whaling vessel in a dramatic Antarctic Ocean clash Japan condemned as "unforgivable."

It was the second battle this week between the whalers and their foes. No one was injured, but the skirmishes mark the resumption of potentially life-threatening run-ins in a contentious fight that has become an annual fixture in the remote, icy and dangerous waters at the bottom of the world.

"The situation down here is getting very, very chaotic and very aggressive," activist Paul Watson, captain of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society's vessel, told The Associated Press on Friday by satellite phone.

The clashes come as diplomatic efforts to resolve the controversy surrounding Japan's scientific whaling program appear to have stalled.

Japan_which has described the protesters as terrorists - plans to harvest up to 935 minke whales and 50 fin whales this season. Under International Whaling Commission rules,

the mammals may be killed for research. Opponents say the Japanese research expeditions are simply a cover for commercial whaling, which was banned in 1986.

Watson said Friday's fracas began as his crew tried to maneuver their boat into a position that would have prevented the Japanese from dragging a whale on board their whaling vessel. Another Japanese ship shot in front of Watson's boat, causing a collision, Watson said.

"We can see the blood pouring out by the barrel," Watson said from his boat - named after the late Australian conservationist and TV personality Steve Irwin _ as he watched the Japanese haul another whale onto their vessel.

Earlier in the day, he said, the Japanese hurled pieces of blubber and whale meat at the Steve Irwin.

Japan blamed Sea Shepherd for the crash, characterizing the incident as a "deliberate ramming."

Shigeki Takaya, a Fisheries Agency spokesman for whaling in Japan, accused the conservationists of "appalling and unforgivable" acts.

"We will ask concerned countries, including Australia, to immediately stop them from carrying out such horrendous acts," Takaya said.

Protesters aboard the Steve a confrontation with the

Irwin set off from Australia in early December for the Antarctic Ocean, chasing the whaling fleet for about 2,000 miles before stopping two weeks ago in Tasmania to refuel. The group found the whalers again on Sunday and resumed their pursuit.

During the initial chase, Watson's crew pelted the Japanese with bottles of butyric acid, produced from rancid butter. In one December clash, Japan accused the Sea Shepherd crew of ramming one of its vessels, causing minor damage to the ship. Watson said the Steve Irwin only lightly brushed the whaling vessel.

This week, tensions escalated after Watson said two members of his crewwere slightly injured when the Japanese blasted them with a water cannon and hurled heavy hunks of metal. Watson accused the Japanese of using a "military grade" noise weapon that can cause deafness and vomiting.

Despite the recent drama, this whaling season has been relatively peaceful compared to previous years.

In January 2008, two Sea Shepherd activists jumped onto a Japanese ship and spent several days in detention on board.

In March 2008, Watson said he was shot at during a confrontation with the



whalers, and was saved by his bulletproof vest. Japan denied shots were fired.

That incident came just a few days after Japan said several of its whalers were lightly injured after being hit by containers of rotten butter. Japan responded by shooting back "sound balls" similar to stun grenades.

Sea Shepherd and the whalers still blame each other for a 2007 collision that left the Robert Hunter - since renamed the Steve Irwin - with a 3-foot gash in its stern.

That year, Japan's whaling hunt ended early after a fire broke out aboard the mother ship, killing one crew member and forcing the fleet to limp back to port. It was not clear what caused the blaze.

Watson, who regularly vows to do anything short of deliberately hurting people to stop whalers, said Friday that he and his crew have no plans to turn back - and will continue to chase the whalers until their fuel supplies run out.



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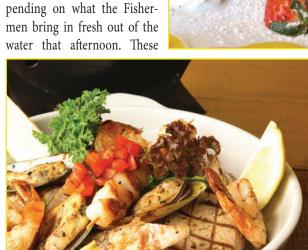
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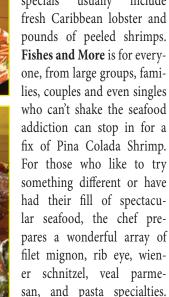


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the terrace to enjoy the tropical breeze and daily live music Most guests come in early for the daily fresh catches, such as Red snapper, grouper, mahi mahi, wahoo and tuna. Check with the server to find out about the Catch of the day. The chef will be more than happy to prepare your fish the way you like it best: grilled, deep-fried, pan-fried or the chef's choice. Every Wednesday, seafood

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Saturday, February 7, 2009 SPORTS

Aruba TODAY

Pat Summitt reaches new heights: 1,000 wins

By TERESA M. WALKER **AP Sports Writer**

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. - Pat Summitt, with a withering demanding glare and standards, has made history by becoming the first to reach the unprecedented height of 1,000 career victories.

The Tennessee coach doubts she will be alone forever.

"People are saying that's a record that will never be broken, but I don't think so. Records are made to be broken," Summitt said after becoming the first Division I coach — man or woman — to win 1,000 career games with a 73-43 win over Georgia on Thursday night.

"The fact that this program was the first to do it is a great source of pride for all of us, our administration, our coaches, all the players who have worn the Lady Vols' uniform."

Tennessee rewarded Summitt, 56, with a post-game party that featured a shower of confetti and streamers, jewelry to commemorate 1,000 along with a painting and even a \$200,000 bonus. There's also a new contract bringing her pay up to \$1.4 million this year and taking her through her 40th season in 2013-2014.

"We're living through an era that will probably never be witnessed again in college basketball," Tennessee men's athletic director Mike Hamilton said after awarding her the game ball. "Sometimes when you're in the middle of that, you don't stop to realize the significance. I'm just trying to take pause and think about it all."

Summitt had wanted to win 1,000 on her home court after No. 900 came on the road in Nashville in 2006. Her baby Lady Vols (17-5, 6-2 Southeastern Conference), featuring seven freshmen, made it happen after blowing their first crack at 1,000 on Monday night with an 80-70



loss at No. 2 Oklahoma.

"We realized this was coming all season," said freshman Kelley Cain. "She's Pat Summitt. Success comes with the name."

These Lady Vols had Summitt joking that they might not be up to the task of winning the 17 games she needed to reach 1,000 this season. They are nothing like the squads that brought Summitt her seventh and eighth national championships the past two seasons.

With their second chance, the Lady Vols took control of the game six minutes in and led by double digits to open the second half. That allowed the more than 16,000 fans to stand with about a minute left and start cheering for the coach, now in her 35th season.

Georgia coach Andy Landers, who has more wins against Summitt than any other coach, was among the first to congratulate her with a hug.

"You just don't see the bar go that high and stay that high very often in anything. Think about it a minute. They've been able to do that for 35 years. Holy cow," Landers said.

The number 1,000 is big enough that even Summitt, who has won at least 20 games in 32 consecutive seasons and 30 games in 18, was a bit stunned.

"It's a wow from the standpoint that I never ever imagined I would coach this long, nor did I ever envision this program winning 1,000 games. It certainly is a time for me to reflect and think about all those players who scored all those points," she said.

"We've had more Americans, more Olympians than anyone in the game thanks to the administration's commitment to the women's game."

Summitt is not only the first to 1,000 Division I victories she might be the only one for a long time. The only coaches with at least 900 wins are Bob Knight (902), the former men's coach at Indiana and Texas Tech currently working in TV, and retired Texas women's coach Jody Conradt (900).

"Everyone who has been involved in athletics knows every once in a while it may take a couple of generations you get to see something very unique and very special," said Billie Moore, who coached Summitt in the 1976 Olympics and was in the stands cheering her on. "It's probably not ever going to happen again, at least not in your lifetime. This is one of those moments."

Summitt joked that her reaching 1,000 might be why Knight may be thinking about coaching again.

This landmark win came on the court named "The Summitt" in honor of the coach who just keeps racking up achievements for others to chase. That was important to Summitt, especially with a road trip to No. 11 Florida on Sunday.

Summitt won her first game at home, and Nos. 300, 800 and 880 — the one that pushed her past North Carolina's Dean Smith for most wins by a Division I coach — also came in Knoxville. On the night she passed Smith, the school renamed the court for Summitt

She had former Tennessee football coach Phillip Fulmer and men's basketball coach and close friend Bruce Pearl cheering her from a luxury suite with SEC commissioner Mike Slive in the stands.

Neither Summitt's mother, who has been ill recently, nor the coach's son, who had his own high school basketball game to play, were in the arena to celebrate with her.

Rangers, Stars quiet about **Avery report**

DALLAS – The Dallas Stars and New York Rangers would not comment on a report that the Rangers have had front-office talks about the possibility of bringing back suspended Stars forward Sean Avery.

The New York Post said Friday that Rangers general manager Glen Sather was expected to speak to Stars co-GM Les Jackson about a timetable under which Dallas would place Avery — who left the Rangers in the offseason to sign with the Stars — on waivers.

If the Rangers were to reacquire Avery, they would be responsible for half of the rest of the his four-year, \$15.5 million contract. For Avery to be eligible for the playoffs, the Rangers would have to pick him up before the March 4 trade deadline.

Avery's stay with the Stars ended when he made crude comments to reporters about former girlfriends before a game at Calgary on Dec. 2. Already unpopular with teammates and coaches, Avery was suspended for six games by the NHL and then entered a counseling program under the NHL/NHLPA behavioral health program.

Avery's agent, Pat Morris, told The Dallas Morning News that his client is close to completing the requirements of his anger management therapy and could petition the NHL for reinstatement as soon as Monday.

Stars officials and players have said they don't want Avery back under any circumstances. Entering Friday night's game against the Rangers, the Stars were 16-7-3 since Avery last played in a Dallas uniform.

Avery's return to the Rangers involve would several steps



illegas handles the South and keeps the lead

By DOUG FERGUSON AP Golf Writer

SAN DIEGO (AP) - Camilo Villegas accomplished his goal in the Buick Invitational on Friday, keeping it around par and keeping the lead while playing the tough South Course in all the elements a golfer dreads, from rain to wind to cold.

John Rollins was one shot behind, and achieved more than anyone imagined.

On a tough day for scoring, Rollins holed out a 9-iron for eagle and made six birdies on his way to an 8-under 64 that at least gave Villegas some company heading into the weekend.

Villegas teed off in a steady rain, and when he reached the exposed holes along the Pacific Ocean bluffs, more rain arrived equipped with gusts up to 25 mph. But he scrambled for pars, took advantage of a few par 5s and wound up with a 70 that put him at 11-under

"I looked at my caddie walking down the 10th fairway - it was just pouring - and I told him, 'Listen, let's find a way to keep it around par and maybe get it in the red numbers,"" Villegas said. "I scrambled

pretty good and 2 under, I'm happy with it."

Villegas was among the early starters, and his solid round made it look as if this Buick Invitational might turn into a runaway. That changed when Rollins played the front nine (he started on No. 10) in 31.

"When I saw he was at 11 (under), I was just trying to get in position to be in the last couple of groups, just staying in the mix," Rollins said. "It just so happened things started going in."

He caught Villegas at 11 under with a birdie on the par-3 eighth and had a chance to match the South Course record since 2002 - when Rees Jones first began to lengthen the course for the U.S. Open - until a bogey on the par-5

It wasn't his best round on tour, but it felt like it.

Charley Hoffman, who grew up in San Diego and is coming off a playoff loss last week at the FBR Open, shot a 66 on the easier North Course and was at 7-under 137. The group at 138 included Paul Goydos, who wasn't planning to play the Buick Invitational.

Goydos learned two weeks ago that his ex-wife had died, and he said he would take a break from the U.S. PGA Tour to be with his two daughters, for whom he had full custody. He said he did not want to talk about his family yet, preferring to answer questions only about his golf and his chances on the weekend.

"I'm not overly excited about playing long ball with Camilo on the South Course the next two days. There's really not much advantage for me there," Goydos said. "But I'm just happy to be playing well, and happy to be playing on the weekend."

Phil Mickelson, off a missed cut at the FBR Open, also will be playing the weekend, although not as close to the lead as he would like.

The three-time winner at Torrey Pines made three bogeys on the par 5s at the North Course for a 72, leaving him at 2-under 142.

Padraig Harrington, at No. 3 the highest-ranked player in the event, went 13 holes without a birdie until holing a 15-footer at No. 5 on the South Course, raising his arms in mock triumph. He had a 74 and was at 145.

Eighty-five players made the



Camilo Villegas, of Colombia, drives in the rain on the tenth hole of the South Course at Torrey Pines during the second round of the Buick Invitational golf tournament, Friday, Feb. 6, 2009, in San Diego.

Associated Press

cut, which was 2-over 146. Harrington played the first two days with Villegas, and the 27-year-old Colombian put on quite a show.

He holed another shot from just off the green on the par-3 11th hole for his fifth consecutive birdie on a par 3, but he was equally impressive with his pars.

With the wind at full strength, Villegas missed four consecutive fairways starting at No. 4, but never did worse than par, and hammered a 5iron out of the rough on the par-5 sixth to the front edge of the green for a birdie.

"Obviously, you want to hit a lot of fairways and try to keep it as simple as you can," Villegas said. "I did completely the opposite today, so then you've got to work hard, be creative and get it upand-down somehow, which I did."



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Constitución indigenista abrirá nueva era en Bolivia

Presidente Morales promulga hoy nueva constitución

LA PAZ (Reuters) - El presidente Evo Morales cumplirá el sábado su sueño de promulgar una nueva Constitución plurinacional y socialista de Bolivia, piedra angular de una "refundación" prometida para sacar de la pobreza al país mayoritariamente indígena.

La carta magna, que permitirá a Morales una reelección inmediata y pondrá a Bolivia en línea con cambios socialistas ya instaurados en la Constitución de Venezuela y Ecuador, entrará en vigencia menos de dos semanas después de un referendo que confirmó un amplio respaldo al proceso liderado por el mandatario indígena.

El gobernante firmará la Constitución en su primera aparición pública desde que el martes pasado se sometiera a una varias veces pospuesta operación en la nariz.

Aprobado con más de 61 por ciento de los votos válidos en el referendo del 25 de enero, el cambio constitucional dará más poder a los indígenas, permitirá autonomías regionales, prohibirá latifundios y consolidará el control estatal sobre la economía, en especial sobre inmensas riquezas de gas natural.

Pero el masivo respaldo y la concertación de gran parte del contenido del nuevo texto parecen haber sido



Un partidario del presidente boliviano, Evo Morales, sostiene una copia de la nueva Constitución, 25 ene 2009. El presidente Evo Morales cumplirá el sábado su sueño de promulgar una nueva Constitución plurinacional y socialista de Bolivia, piedra angular de una 'refundación' prometida para sacar de la pobreza al país mayoritariamente indígena. REUTERS/David Mercado (BOLIVIA)

insuficientes para aplacar la resistencia de radicales líderes regionales, que tras el referendo han pedido un pacto político nacional.

"El pacto es la nueva Constitución. Si quieren pacto sólo puede ser para aplicarla, no para modificarla", dijo Morales en varios discursos posteriores a la consulta, proclamando que el tiempo del debate constitucional había terminado.

La nueva Constitución boliviana será promulgada en un acto callejero en la vecina ciudad de El Alto, urbe aymara que suele apoyar incondicionalmente a Morales, líder indígena que compensa con creces el rechazo de cuatro distritos de tierras bajas con

un gran apoyo en los cinco departamentos andinos.

El Gobierno dijo que el secretario general de la Organización de Estados Americanos, José Miguel Insulza, y la premio Nobel de la Paz, Rigoberta Menchú, serán los invitados de honor en el acto de "refundación", en el que desfilarán delegaciones de los 36 pueblos indígenas bolivianos.

El presidente de Venezuela, Hugo Chávez, anunció que enviará a su canciller, según un comunicado emitido en Caracas.

Chávez, el principal aliado internacional del mandatario boliviano, "felicitó a (...) Morales tanto por su impresionante recuperación como por la inminente aplicación de esta Carta Magna construida junto al pueblo", agregó el comunicado.

GRANDES DESAFIOS

Bolivia enfrentará grandes desafíos políticos con la entrada en vigencia de la nueva Constitución, habida cuenta de que el voto mayoritario por el cambio tiene todavía un frente de resistencia, dijo en analista Guido Riveros.

"La aplicación del cambio

exige una actitud muy prudente tanto del Gobierno como de la oposición. Tomando en cuenta los antecedentes de polarización, hay que hacer esfuerzos para perfeccionar los acuerdos que hasta ahora se han logrado", dijo Riveros, quien dirige un instituto de investigaciones políticas.

Recordó que Bolivia ha vivido experiencias muy dramáticas de choques políticos en los últimos años, "pero al mismo tiempo ha llegado a esta nueva Constitución por un diálogo de última hora que mostrado que hay alternativas frente a la polarización".

El nuevo texto, primero en la historia boliviana que pasó por un referendo, quedó listo para la consulta popular en octubre, cuando un Congreso Nacional cercado por campesinos oficialistas alcanzó el pacto que recogió en gran parte las demandas de autonomías y otras impulsadas por la derecha.

La nueva Constitución manda al Congreso aprobar en 60 días un nuevo régimen electoral, de cara a comicios generales anticipados que se efectuarán en diciembre.

Ecuador reorganiza mandos militares en sus fronteras

QUITO (AP) - Las fuerzas armadas decidieron reorganizar sus mandos militares en las provincias fronterizas con Colombia y Perú, y vigilar las zonas limítrofes incluso con aviones no tripulados y radares de fabricación china, se informó el viernes oficialmente.

El general Fabián Varela, jefe del Comando Conjunto de las Fuerzas Armadas, afirmó que las tres divisiones responsables de las provincias limítrofes con Colombia quedan bajo un solo mando el cual "puede maniobrar y planificar operaciones, acciones y reacciones conforme a su

concepción".

En rueda de prensa, señaló que la denominada Fuerza de Tarea 4 (FT4), controlará las provincias de Esmeraldas, en la costa del océano Pacífico; Carchi, en los Andes; Sucumbíos, en la amazonia, además de otras como Napo, Imbabura, Pastaza y Orellana. Para el control del límite con Perú, quedan bajo un solo mando las provincias de Cañar, Azuay, El Oro, Loja, Zamora Chinchipe y Morona Santiago, informó. Añadió que a mediano plazo, también se tiene previsto incrementar en un 25% los efectivos que vigilan la frontera con

Colombia. Actualmente hay 7.500 militares y 3.000 policías en cumplimiento de esa función. En tanto, el comandante del ejército, general Ernesto González, afirmó que se tiene previsto construir "tres destacamentos más (en la frontera con Colombia), cumpliendo las estrategias propuestas por el jefe del comando conjunto". Adicionalmente, se informó que se espera contribuir a la vigilancia en el sector limítrofe con lanchas interceptoras, aviones no tripulados y radares chinos, estos últimos que podrían llegar al país en

febrero.

















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